

NEWS Release

For Immediate Release

Topic: Governor's Health Summit Series
Turns Focus on "Measuring Up"
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Building on the "you've got to know where you're going to get there" adage, Governor Ronnie Musgrove along with state and national health professionals will take a look at how Mississippi's "Measuring Up" August 21.

The Governor's Health Care Summit Series continues on that date in Tupelo, at the University of Mississippi Advanced Education Center, 1918 Briar Ridge Drive. Registration starts at 9 am, and the event will conclude by 3:30 pm.

After the Governor's keynote address, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Dr. Jeffrey P. Koplan, luncheon speaker - will describe successful comprehensive cardiovascular health interventions.

"This Summit brings together experts who can help develop new ways to approach improvements in the health areas with the greatest need," Governor Musgrove said "We will look at new ways to take on health care problems that continue to affect the people of our state."

State Health Officer Dr. Ed Thompson agreed: "We'll take a look at the worst first. Mississippi historically has been ranked at or near the bottom in such areas as heart disease, physical activity, obesity, diabetes - those are our areas of focus for this Summit. We must wait no

longer to deal with these detractors to good health."

Magnolia State residents bear the highest heart disease death rate among all deaths (1998 statistics), and the state tied in 2000 with West Virginia in the percentage of residents with diabetes. For 1999, Mississippi had the highest percent of overweight high school students; in 2000, the state had the second highest percentage of overweight adults and the fourth highest percent of adults with no leisure time physical activity.

Mississippi State University social research scientist Dr. Robert McMillen and Thompson will report the current "measures," with Jackson Heart Study Director Dr. Herman A. Taylor delivering "The Heart of the State" address.

Afternoon sessions will cover comprehensive diabetes management - with speeches from Dr. Marshall Bouldin, IV, University of Mississippi Medical Center faculty member, and Dr. James McIlwain, Jr., president of Information and Quality Healthcare. Finally, Dr. Emmanuel O. Keku of the North Mississippi Medical Center family medicine residency program will discuss obesity and physical inactivity in Mississippi.

The conference is free, and the public is welcome to attend. Pre-registration is required to prepare lunch for meeting participants. To register, individuals may call 601-576-7667 or visit the Department of Health website at www.msdh.state.ms.us/summit. Agenda, faculty profiles, and program highlights also appear there.

Beyond the speakers, the program features several Mississippians as reactors:

— more —

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- Victor Sutton, director of health promotion, Mississippi State Department of Health
- Linda Southward, PhD, Social Science Research Center,

Mississippi State University

- Agnes Hinton, DrPH, RD, co-director, The Center of Sustainable Health Outreach
- Theresa Humphrey, vice president, American Heart Association
- Chris Bates, area executive director, American Diabetes Association
- Linda C. Pearce, MEd, BSN, RNC, CDE, diabetes consultant
- Barbara P. Rogers, PhD, RN, University of Mississippi School of Nursing and Mississippi Nurses Association - LEAP Project
- Samuel Okoye, MD, Community Organization for Health Awareness
- Teresa McKitney, MD, G. A. Carmichael Community Health Center.

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